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DIT:Students Union

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DIT Independent



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Socs
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Alan MacStiofán, yet another Student's Union officer, takes the plunge in Aungier Street (Photo taken by Lili Forberg)

Student fees to bail out SU shops

by **Jim McGrath**
Chief News Editor

DIT's shops and Mountjoy Square's canteen are to re-open in the coming weeks after over a month of inactivity with no explanation why.

The company set up to run the shops, DITSU Trading Ltd, is currently securing a loan from the college, amounting to half a million euro to avoid going into liquidation. This company, which did not have to pay rent or electricity, amassed debts in the region of 300,000 euro.

Meanwhile company workers have been left without income and unable to avail of social welfare as they are still employed by the company.

The DIT Independent understands that workers in extreme cases have had to go to


money lenders in order to make ends meet.

Student union president, Jarlath Molloy said: "It's very unfortunate this had to happen and we apologise to all the staff involved. Our priority has been to solve the situation".

The ailing company will now have to be bailed out by our capitation fee.

Between 400,000 and half a million euro will come from student services fund to get the company up and running. This money will then be repaid within ten years using the funds from the student union pool tables. According to Jarlath Molloy, "the college realise it's an important service to students and there is an agreement in principle to resolve the situation." DIT President, Brian Norton said "we're very concerned that services be restored as soon as possible".

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President's Voice

Hi, welcome to (or back to) college and the DIT Students' Union!

If this is your first year in DIT, congratulations on making a great choice! It's a great achievement to get into college, but it can also be daunting at first, we've all been through it! For everyone else, glad you all made it back after the summer holidays.

My name is Jarlath Molloy and I was elected last March, as President of the DIT Students' Union for 2004/2005. I'm 23 years old and from Newgrange, Co. Meath. I've just graduated with a BSc (Hons) in Physics and Physics Technology.

As President of the Students' Union, I am the main representative of all DIT students. I deal with student issues internally in the DIT Students' Union, within DIT and externally with the Government and other external bodies & agencies.

The new DIT Students' Union website (www.ditsu.ie) was launched at the first SU Governing Council meeting on 14th October in DIT Cathal Brugha Street. We haven't finished uploading all the content, so keep checking for regular updates, news, information, clubs, socs and other SU events.

Normally, an associated company of the DIT Students' Union operates shop services & one canteen service on campus. However, this company has experienced trading difficulties in the recent past. All concerned are working very hard to resolve the situation, and you will be kept informed about developments in this area.

If you ever have a problem drop into us or give us a call and we'll do our best to help you; you're not on your own.

Enjoy the year,

Jarlath

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How it all went wrong

continued from page one

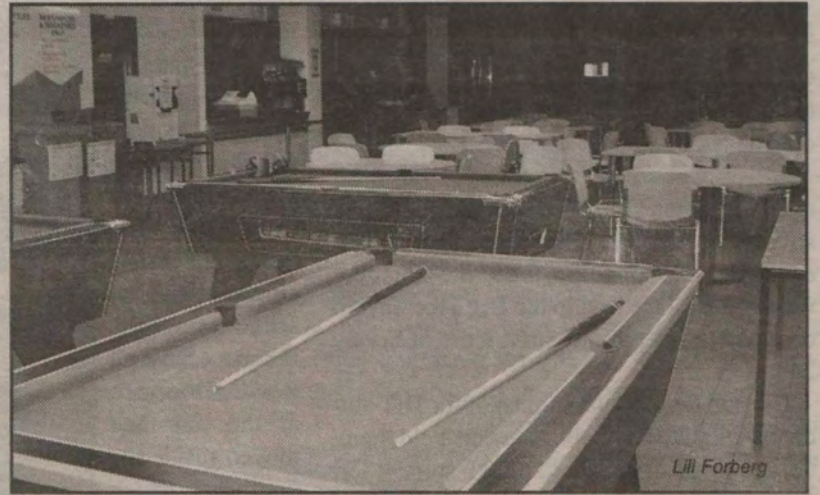
THE dreadful situation for the company is being blamed on a number of one-off factors and its lack of business capital. The company has been struggling for a number of years. In 2002 DITSU Trading Ltd. declared losses of 62,650 euro followed by a 41,336 euro loss in 2003.

One former director admitted to the DIT Independent that they did not always know how much they were spending: "We went through a stage where we didn't keep an eye on our expenditure. We just didn't have the staff to do that job. We then spent money to bring someone in to do that. It's ironic we had spend more money to find out we were losing money". Also the company had to start paying their manager from its own funds after 2001. Previous to that the manager's wages were paid for out of the capitation fee. They also

could not borrow money from banks under their own rules.

There were also political difficulties with the college. DITSU Trading Ltd. never had a formal agreement with DIT out of which it was operating. DIT continues not deal directly with that company. The loan that is currently being negotiated from the college is being done through DITSU Ltd. a separate company set up by the student union funded by the student capitation fee. DITSU Trading Ltd. tried to reach a formal agreement with DIT but got nowhere.

Nick Reilly, management consultant with DITSU said the problem with the company was lack of capital. "This was the fundamental problem with the company. When you don't have capital, you are always going to be fighting when it comes to expansion. It couldn't cope with the normal shocks that happen to businesses."



A lonesome Mountjoy Square canteen

DITSU Trading Ltd. engaged in a number of expansion projects. 44,000 euro was spent on equipment for the canteen in Mountjoy square which quickly depreciated. A similar figure was spent developing both the Aungier St. and Mountjoy square shops. Legal costs and increased wages are also being blamed. DITSU Trading Ltd. will also have to be restructured.

Prices are now set to increase when the shops do re-open for business, according to Mr. Reilly. At the time of going to print the negotiations are ongoing to resolve the issue but a positive resolution is expected and the shops are to be reopened quickly after.

DITSU Trading facts

- 1994 the DIT Students' Union formed a second limited company, DITSU Trading Limited to supervise the commercial activities that had been previously dealt with by DITSU Ltd.
- July 2004 DITSU Trading LTD. became a wholly owned subsidiary company of DITSU LTD. and a membership agreement between the two companies was signed.
- The DITSU Trading Limited Board now consists of the 3 elected officers Jarlath Molloy, Sharon Hughes and Alan Mac Stofáin.

Workers left in limbo

by Aimee Vickers

DITSU Trading staff have been left with no pay for over seven weeks.

Aungier Street Shop Manager Marcella Keane said that "We've been left in limbo, with no pay and we haven't been able to sign on".

Student Union shop staff were shocked and angry when they returned to work for the new semester only to discover that DITSU Trading ceased operations on September 3rd.

Workers were left without answers and SIPTU representative Chris Rowland condemned the behaviour of the company. She expressed her concerns that DITSU Trading Ltd has not been forthcoming with information. She stated "I am seriously concerned about the delay in negotiations to finalise the necessary arrangements

for a Rescue Plan".

In relation to a 'Rescue Plan' for the troubled company Ms Rowland added "In the restructuring of the SU the Senior Managers might take on the role of Commercial Manager in each shop. Although this hasn't been agreed it would have to be considered in the future".

legal advice and protecting their own interests while the workers have been left hung out to dry with no access to Social Welfare".

Another aspect to the revelations is that DIT students have been left without a valued service. Ms Rowland said "The students also needed to know about the closures but they were given no consideration".

The workers were never informed that that this situation existed.

According to Ms Rowland "They had no access to figures, balance sheets or Profit and Loss accounts. Access to this information would have to be a priority for the future. The workers are not going to be as trusting in the future".

Marcella Keane is still waiting for a phone call to tell her when she can come back to work. The distraught shop manager has been a loyal employee in DIT for over 20 years and said that the situation has become so critical that several employees have turned to loan sharks for financial assistance. "I was always told that the Student's Union was responsible for us and now the President is basically saying that they are not liable for what happens to us" she said.



The ironic caption at DITSU Trading Aungier Street

At the moment the company have failed to come forward with an adequate explanation for the employees. Ms Rowland said "The boards of these companies are hung up on

Glass smashed in student's face

by *Cian Fitzsimons*

Gardai at Fitzgibbon street station are investigating the alleged assault of a DIT student outside a DIT event.

A glass was smashed in the student's face, resulting in facial injuries requiring multiple stitches. Sgt. John Fahey confirmed that enquiries are ongoing into the incident which took place beside the Big Tree Tavern on Dorset Street in the early hours of Friday 24th September.

The pub is a popular nightspot for DIT students, with weekly college events held there. On the night in question, a DIT student left the premises at approximately 2.30am when he was assaulted, in an apparently unprovoked

attack, by a man in his late teens or early-20s. The student was in a critical condition for several days after the assault. The culprit fled the scene up the Drumcondra Road. Doormen at the pub had moved inside the premises, which had been cleared. Management at



The Big Tree stated that the assailant had not been attending the event.

Bob Coggins, Ents Officer for Bolton Street, said that the Students Union is "assisting the Gardai in every way possible and hopefully anyone with information will do the same." Both he and the management of The Big Tree pointed out the complete absence of trouble inside the venue.

The Gardai have taken the step of erecting posters on all northside campuses appealing for information, following on from coverage in the national media. Garda Catherine Houlihan, who is leading the investigation, has reiterated the appeal for anybody in the vicinity of The Big Tree on the night to contact Fitzgibbon Street station on 6668400.

66k lost on library debts

by *Jim McGrath*

Students will no longer be allowed graduate if they still owe money to the library. DIT's library services had to fork out almost 66,000 euro to replace the books that had not been returned by students, with 1470 bills not paid in the academic year 2003-04.

This rule has been brought in as an effort to reduce this cost, Philip Cohen, the Head of Library Services said: "66,000 is 15 per cent of the total amount we have to spend on new books. It is more than the amount we have to spend on new books all year for the library at Cathal Brugha Street. There are victims here. It is the majority of students who suffer because of the actions of the selfish minority. The new sanctions available to us may mean that students are not permitted to graduate with a DIT qualification".

Mr Cohen told the DIT Independent that servicing the DIT is his priority. "Nobody wants to see that happen, least of all library staff. But we do have a duty to protect the interests of the whole DIT community", he said.

Student Union vice-president in charge of academic affairs, Sharon

Hughes said, "The libraries have assured us that it will only use the new sanctions in extreme circumstances."

Mr Cohen insisted students are better off to let the library know if they have lost a book, saying "I would encourage any student who may have misplaced a library book to discuss the matter with staff at the appropriate library. We will try to be sympathetic and understanding wherever possible. But remember: it often pays to contact us before we contact you!"

DIT Links Need More Funds

by *Niall Foley*

Dr Tommy Cooke, leader of the DIT Community Links scheme, is raising awareness of the difficulties in maintaining the programme.

"Our biggest problem is funding. We have thirteen people employed between our various programmes and we need funding to sustain our projects" he said.

The DIT Community Links scheme is aimed at providing access to college for people from disadvantaged backgrounds. A central part of the project

encourages DIT students to go into local schools and talk about their college experiences. Inner city Dublin has the lowest level of third level participation in the country. Preparing children for college access begins at pre-primary level. Dr Cook believes the student outreach broadens the horizons of those who may feel that college is not a viable option: "We are trying to educate children and parents about the benefits of education. They have the same intellect as anyone else but often their ambi-

tions are lower because of their background. We're facilitating young people to get into college who would not otherwise and that has ripple effects throughout the community".

Dr Cook calls for changes to be made to the grants system. "I wouldn't mind if fees were paid by some of the wealthier in our society. If that money could be saved and ploughed back into grants for those who are disadvantaged. The current Higher Education grants are grossly inefficient."

66,550 euro from us to farcical USI

by *Arthur Sullivan*

The DIT students union has been asked to pay 66,500 euro to the Union of Students in Ireland. The national student body increased its membership fee in an effort to pay off their debts.

Last year USI had debts totalling 300,000 euro and made most of its permanent staff redundant. President Ben Archibald says the fee of €2.86 per student per year was "unsustainable" and there was no other option but to increase the fee to €5.00.

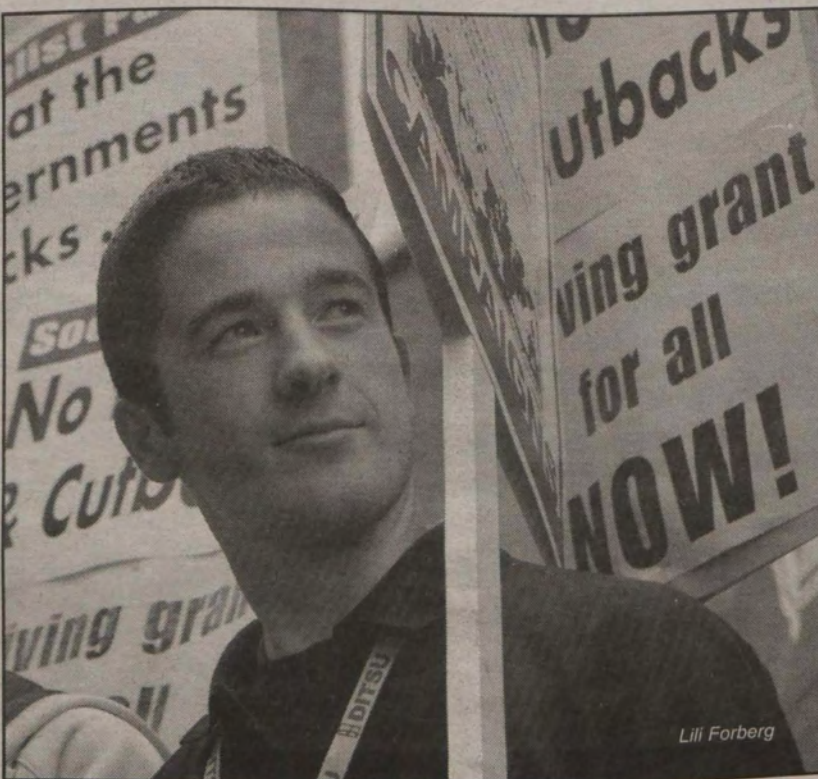
DIT Student Union President, Jarlath Molloy, acknowledged that the USI had few options but to increase their fee. He is not "overly happy" about the 66,500 euro fee but the final decision of whether or not to pay it will be made by the DITSU governing council.

Meanwhile only a small number of students turned out to the USI anti-fee demonstration on October 12. The protest was made up of about 70 demonstrators.

It started outside Dáil Éireann with Student Union presidents of DIT,

UCD, TCD and IT Tallaght all making brief speeches along with a Sinn Féin representative. USI deputy president Rory Hearne blasted the government's treatment of students. He complained about the inadequate grant system for students, the educational cutbacks and the increase in the registration fees.

Things began to turn ugly when 12 students stormed



Il Duce: Jarlath Molloy

the Fianna Fail headquarters. They failed to get into the actual offices and left soon afterwards. The attempts to storm the PD offices were halted at the entrance by a number of gardai. Ben Archibald described these particular protesters as "people who don't care about USI education policy" and he condemned their actions. Jarlath Molloy said "I'm embarrassed about the scenes at the offices. They were unprofessional and shambolic".

Jarlath Molloy put the low participation in the march down to students not knowing about the march and the main colleges being heavily involved with internal issues at the present time. Ben Archibald claimed that the protest was "designed to be small" and that it was mainly just "a gathering of USI officials". When asked did USI mean anything to students, Ben Archibald said "USI provides a direct link for ordinary students with national figures and issues. I don't know if the ordinary student realises that the USI are responsible for fees not being reintroduced last year. They should know this".

DIT Independent

Trading on thin Ice

HOW will DITSU Trading survive? Without major bills, it managed to accumulate a massive debt. In an effort to bail it out, DITSU Ltd has offered up money obtained from pool tables for most of the next ten years.

Next to student capitation fees, this money from 'Pool and Video' is the second biggest source of income to DITSU Ltd. With entertainments generally running at a loss, can it afford such a donation over nearly ten years? DITSU President Jarlath Molloy told the DIT Independent that 'Pool and Video' accounts for roughly €46k a year. After nine years this would suggest DITSU Ltd will have sacrificed just under half a million to secure safety in a business currently at risk of liquidation.

Why did DITSU Trading fund Mountjoy Square canteen when DIT was transporting more than half the students to Aungier Street? Why did it engage in such projects when already experiencing losses? Talk of increasing prices to rescue Trading is farcical. Prices are already equal to if not greater than in most shops on the street. The DIT Independent has investigated as far as it can but awaits answers. DITSU sabbaticals (elected representatives of the student body) are not forthcoming with information, due to fear of legal threats - at least, that's what is being said. The sabbaticals should be commended for their efforts to resolve all the problems in DITSU Trading. They have done so while fulfilling their duties to a high standard.

Bereft of DITSU Trading for the past two months, students of DIT await further results and acknowledgement of what really happened to 'our shops'. Everything in student politics is done with the best of intentions, but not with the best of sense. We elect our representatives to represent us, not to direct companies. When those who sit on the governing council can't inform us, who can?

Irrelevant USI

USI are continuing to prove themselves as one of the most ineffective lobby groups in the country. With over 50,000 students in Dublin city, approximately seventy students felt their anti-fee protest was worth turning up.

USI claim to be the reason that fees were not introduced. The fact that the PDs were set against fees, may be a more significant factor. USI is picked out of a clique of student politicians who most of us do not vote for. The result - USI has become completely irrelevant to most of the student population. Take this along with the fact that they managed to go 300,000 euro in debt last year.

The DIT students union will have to pay 66,500 euro in membership. USI provide training for student union sabbaticals, which helps them cater for our every need as students. Yet they neglected to provide adequate training for Alan MacStiofain (our Vice-President), one of our three SU sabbaticals this year. Incorporating the above, is that really worth 66,500 euro?

It is the policy of the DIT Independent to correct any inaccuracies as soon as they occur. Any corrections or clarifications will be printed in the next edition of the newspaper. It is also the policy of the DIT Independent to offer the right of reply to any person who feels aggrieved by comment or opinion contained within. Please forward any such comments in writing to the Editor. The views expressed do not necessarily reflect the policies of the Students' Union.

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'ART-less DIT dump projects

by Eva Hogan, Eimear O'Reilly, Blathin de Paor

DIT students will graduate without their complete portfolio, putting their job prospects in threat. DIT dumped art projects belonging to Mountjoy square students in the summer.

Daithí Rua, 3rd year class rep student for interior furniture and design, was informed his project had been dumped by a cleaner when he called to the college last July. "I arrived to be told that my work had been put in a skip two days earlier and could not be retrieved.

Notices were displayed but it is generally understood students every year simply clean up their area. For the last two years no dumping occurred so this year we didn't expect any different."

A DIT spokesperson said "Each year and certainly for the last six years it has been requested of students in Mountjoy

Square to remove all their work by a certain date; usually by mid June. This year was no exception. Heads of department have been checked with and all have confirmed that the request

were a fire hazard. The projects were, in fact, stored in the design studio, which is used for paper and other art students are still questioning why only certain art projects were dumped.

While all the projects in the 2nd year studio were taken only some of the 3rd year projects were removed.

The students involved say their concern is not about grades but their future job prospects. "If it was our 2nd year work it wouldn't matter. But because the 3rd year projects are what are included in our portfolios for prospective employers, our prospects are greatly lessened. Despite all our effort, these will not be as full as they should be as a result."

When asked whether an apology would be forthcoming from the college, Daithí Rua said "We haven't received an apology as yet and no we aren't expecting one.

But, considering the hard work that went into these projects an apology would be nice."



Students returned to empty drawers

was made to all students."

When a complaint was issued by one student, the college said the projects

Bon appetit Bolton St.

IMPROVEMENTS have been made to the Bolton St canteen, following an article published in the DIT Independent.

The article lamented the quality of the canteens throughout DIT, and singled out the Bolton St canteen facility for particular criticism.

After reading the article, Cambell Catering on-site manager Martin Lynam sought to improve facilities. A committee was established which consisted of student, lecturer, and chef representatives, as well as Mr Lynam himself.

Fantastic results have since been seen and tasted. Student rep Brad Sinnott and Martin Lynam both expressed satisfaction with the results, as have the students at large. Bolton St student James Cullimore said "you can't compete with what the canteen have to offer now!"

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Only in DIT...

After spending time in DIT, you may become surprised sometimes, but nothing will shock you in this college. To gain some comic relief from our Do It Tomorrow administration system, Only in DIT..., will become a regular feature in the DIT Independent. If you have had crazy experiences with college authorities email us at chiefnews@campus.ie by *Hélène Hofman*

What's that Draft? Student Charter left out in the cold.

The DIT Student Charter is finally on the verge of completion having spent almost 6 years on a shelf.

The Charter which "sets out the level of service and standards of excellence we [DIT] intend to provide for our students", was initially drawn up in August 1998. Its aim was to provide information on such student banalities as accommodation services, counselling and careers services, amongst others.

The Charter tells us what the DIT should be doing for us and what we should be doing for the DIT. It covers everything; what services you are entitled to from the day you arrive, DIT's stance on learning supports, even what you can expect from your site canteen.

Fortunately, the shelved draft was recovered this summer by a couple of knights in shining armor (aka SU President, Jarlath Molloy and Director of Academic Affairs, Frank McMahon). Its cobwebs were dusted off, it was reviewed and sent to be approved by the relevant departments.

So, all going to plan, we should expect our Student Charter to be fully-appraised and available early next year - worth the wait?

Beer Bargain Proving Popular

by *Kieran Dineen*

Good news for beer loving penny-pinching students. Bavaria beer will be coming to a drinking hall near you - on draught no less.

Disgruntled punters, fed up of the rising price of draught beer, are finally to get an alternative to Diageo and Heineken. Bavaria beer, a popular choice in off-licences, will now be available in Dublin pubs for just 3 of your hard-earned euro.

Bavaria beer will retail cheaper than Heineken and Carlsberg because it will not have an advertising campaign. Sales are booming in the 50 pub outlets where it is on offer and drinks distributor, M & J Gleeson, expect 200 pubs to be offering customers the cheaper alternative by the end of the year.

Publican Jay Bourke, owner of a chain of pubs and nightclubs, including the Globe on Georges Street in Dublin, said Bavaria was proving a hit with customers at just 3 euros a pint, compared with about 4.40 euro a pint for other types of beer.

Mr. Bourke said the Globe is selling seven barrels of Bavaria, compared with 11 or 12 barrels of Heineken, one month after introducing the new beer to his pub. He said the strong performance of Bavaria showed that "people are not that brand-loyal".

Bavaria Beer has been brewed in Holland since 1719 and it has been a family owned and operated brewery for the last 284 years. It is sold in over 82 countries worldwide and is the second largest brand in and is the second largest brand in Holland.



Ummm beer

Landlords Act Better

by *Kieran Dineen*

Are you fed up with lazy, crooked, money-grabbing landlords? Tenants now have more rights than ever, and landlords more responsibilities, under the residential tenancies act 2004.

Whether you have a lease or not landlords must do the following-

- allow the tenant to enjoy peaceful and exclusive occupation,
- carry out repairs,
- insure the dwelling,
- provide a point of contact,
- promptly refund deposits unless rent is owing or there is damage beyond normal wear and tear
- reimburse tenants for expenditure on repairs that were appropriate to the landlord
- enforce tenant obligations
- not penalise tenants for making complaints or taking action to enforce their rights.

If your landlord is not carrying out these responsibilities you can now bring a complaint to the Private Residential Tenancies Board.

Rent may not be greater than the open market rate and may be

reviewed (upward or downward) once a year only unless there has been a substantial change in the nature of the accommodation that warrants

a review. Tenants are to be given 28 days notice of new rents.

Tenants now have security

of tenure after 6 months. The landlord can terminate without specifying grounds during the first 6 months, but once a tenancy has lasted 6 months, the landlord will be able to terminate that tenancy only under one of the following circumstances

- the tenant does not comply with the obligations of the tenancy
- the dwelling is no longer suited to the occupants accommodation needs (e.g. overcrowded)
- the landlord intends to sell the dwelling in the next 3 months
- the landlord requires the dwelling for own or family member occupation
- the landlord intends to refurbish the dwelling
- the landlord intends to change the business use of the dwelling.

The Act applies to the mainstream private rented sector so it does

not apply to: "rent a room" or other arrangements whereby

the landlord also resides in the dwelling or on-campus accommodation.



USI accommodation protest

Dude, where's my canteen?

by *Sean O'Neill*

Portland Row, is unknown to most DIT students. Yet, there is a DIT campus on this street. An annex of Mountjoy Square DIT, Portland Row is an imposing building.

My mission was to find the canteen and that I did. It consists solely of vending machines; there isn't even somewhere to get tea. I met a 4th year student who, with

years of experience, brings a flask with him to college.

The students of Portland Row have long bemoaned the state of their facilities. At the end of last year a Class Rep told me that Portland Row did not have a solitary computer.

Many students feel unsafe walking home and Portland Row students feel even more endangered than most. The surrounding area is an infamous trouble spot; Amiens St, The North Strand Road and Summerhill are not

considered to be the friendliest parts of Dublin.

Portland Row's isolated position, in relation to the other sites, makes it easy to forget about the campus. But the students have been vocal about the college's shortcomings. As a Bolton St student I find it hard to get excited about the idea of a canteen but at least we have one available we have tea and coffee available too, none of which you will find in Portland Row or even close by.

The Portland Row students I

talked to seemed content enough with their surroundings, many of them were probably sick of complaining. But they still spoke of the college's isolation from the rest of DIT and the lack of facilities. The consensus among many - even the porters - seems to be that Portland Row gets the short end of the stick.

So next time you complain about the queue in the Aungier St canteen, just remember...at least you have one!

Ich bin ein Dubliner

Erasmus student Felicia Reinsaedt gives her first impression of DIT and Dublin.

ACTUALLY I should have gone to Helsinki for my studies. The reason I finally landed in Dublin is the result of a over-night decision based on some friends' vivid Irish holiday stories featuring Guinness and Baileys. The fact that my English is much better than my Finnish and the first record of The Thrills were also factors in my coming here.

The only Irish person I knew at that time was a drunken Dub I bumped into one night in Munich. He was very talkative - which by now I know most Irish guys are - but because of his strong accent I hardly understood anything except "Slaunghy".

I guess he was a Northsider. Of

course I didn't know then, but this Southside-Northside-thing was one of my first insights into Irish life. When I told people that I lived on the north of the Liffey, they went "oh- no", telling me dangerous stories about this part of the city. This is why I still don't answer my mobile when going home on Parnell Street.

"Don't walk alone at night" was another piece of well-meant advice, I received. But actually I never really felt alone on the streets at night, especially not at the weekend. I have never seen such a rush at three in the morning, when everyone steps out of the pubs and clubs and meets in the middle of the road for a big get-together. Indeed I

had to redefine the term "nightlife" as it seems to start here in the afternoon and at does not ends until a decent time before dawn.

My first day at DIT began with a typical Irish breakfast organised by the College. Unfortunately I

am vegetarian and so 80 per-cent of the plate was inedible for me. But they did serve real coffee for us Continental Europeans, who are not used to drinking tea all day.

So breakfast was the first Irish thing I

got to know at university. The second thing I found out about DIT, was that it takes a while until everything gets started: until

everyone is back at university, until you get registered, the courses begin and you finally meet some people that are NOT Erasmus students.

I can't compare DIT with my university in Germany. It's a totally different way of studying.

At home I sometimes sit with 300 students in a lecture and hardly know one of them. I pick my courses three months before the semester starts and call my lecture by his surname still wondering if I have to use his doctor or professor title as well.

I still feel a bit old here with my 22 years of age, but I think I am now acclimatized: I drink tea with milk, I also can have it with crisps and I eat those triangular-white-bread-sandwiches for lunch. I



Lili Forberg

Bright lights, big city

have learned to stand in a queue for almost everything, even for a rock concert and I also tried to dress more lightly as Irish people seem to be more immune against bad weather.

I wasn't too successful on the last point and got a cold. So you probably will recognize me as the girl with the warm cap and the big scarf beside all my t-shirt-skirt-wearing classmates.

The Poncho strikes back

Ceri Teggin gives some winter fashion tips for ladies

IT is official, Summer is over. We've begun to pack our short skirts away as the last flicker of sunshine leaves the sky. But, as we hop along to the shops, ready to buy our lovely fluffy winter coats, we are stopped dead in our tracks by a hideous sight on the racks... The poncho is back.

The poncho made its mark on the fashion scene decades ago. Once worn by hippies, and our mothers, this horrible excuse for clothing should have been burned at the stake. Nevertheless, this autumn, the 70's poncho has suddenly reclaimed its glory, and blasted into the modern fashion world, along with its partner, the cape. Both can be seen flapping around the shoulders of celebrities everywhere, trying to bring shame to those of us with arms on our jackets.

However, if you feel that having sleeves in your clothing is just far too restrictive, then a much better option is the crochet shawl. It is best worn fastened with a broach, preferably one with a pearl and diamante finish. Pearls have become the ultimate accessory for that elegant 'lady-like' style, which is so popular now. Knitted scarves have been pushed off the hangers and replaced by fur collars. Last year's cutesy woollen mittens with scruffy pom-poms are very much dead and buried. Taking their place is the retro leather-driving glove, perfect for slapping hat man

In haute couture, the catwalks took a strange turn with the revival of the equestrian style. Jodhpurs, leather riding jackets, and over the knee boots are just some of the items top designers are touting as this seasons must haves. But if you don't want the horse faced, bow legged look, there is definitely a nicer style awaiting. The British shoe shop 'Office' has finally hit town and brought with it boots, boots, glorious boots. It is on Henry Street and the most up to the minute design is the cowboy boot. The embroidered leather and pointy toe looks adorable worn with skinny jeans.

If you are looking for something a little classier, then try jewel clad show girl boots. They are guaranteed to put a little sparkle into proceedings, especially if you are brave enough to wear frilly knickers and a garter. Ditch the GHD and let some messy curls fall around your face. Add a ribbon to your hair and some smouldering eye shadow to give that demure, but naughty, saloon girl look.

On a finishing note, the summer sales have dispensed with the last of the eighties tack that cluttered the high street stores. Whilst this is definitely a joyous occasion for all of mankind, there is one straggler that just seems to have tugged at our heartstrings. It is, of course, the leg warmer. Never to be mocked, they provide that extra little bit of warmth those of us still clinging to our short summer skirts need. While the bravest may struggle on wearing flip-flops, blue toes can be avoided by teaming them



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From mystical Stonehenge to spirit-full Glastonbury

Sarah Cooney spent this summer finding her spiritual side and her journey brought her to Stonehenge and Glastonbury

IN ancient times, hundred of years before the dawn of history lived an ancient race of the people...the Druids. No one knows who they were or what they were doing...but their legacy remains.

And so 5,000 years after Stonehenge mysteriously appeared on the Salisbury plain, 21,000 people brave the cold to celebrate the summer solstice as their ancestors once did. Despite sporadic showers, spirits remain high as the crowd swell in anticipation of ten o'clock when we will be allowed up to the stones.

In the distance, shrouded in mist, the stones are the scenes of a ceremony as Druids celebrate the solstice. Once the Druids finish their ceremony the gates open and the crowds surge up the one kilometre walk to the stones. People are mostly silent as the realisation began to dawn that they are about to experience something ancient and awesome.

The stones are incredible. Only at the summer solstice are people allowed into their midst and the privilege is not lost on the crowd. Everyone buzzes with energy but at the same time are silent. Even the police gaze in wonder. People hug and touch the stones, feeling the thousand-year-old lichen between their fingers.

The enormity of the event is over-whelming. It is only when you are inside the circle that you realise the gravity of the occasion. Humans always have difficulty grasping the concept of time and to think that thousand of years ago people gathered here to celebrate the dawn of the longest day of the year is mind-blowing.

Whether or not you believe in energy fields and ley lines no one can deny the astonishing power of Stonehenge. People emerge from the stones feeling dizzy and light headed. Inside a druid leads a group in a cross between tai chi and chanting.

The night is cold and long but for those who manage to stay awake the reward is invaluable.

As the sun begins to pierce the clouds, a shout goes up as the crowd clap and scream. It is a slow sunrise as the sun lazily climbs over the plain. The intensity increases as the chorus of bongos launch into a crescendo.

Finally, the sun's rays, which have travelled 150 million kilometres through space, burst through the stones and light up the entire circle. Everyone cheers at the amazing experience. It is staggering to think that a race considered primitive constructed a monument that is precisely aligned to be illuminated when the rays of the solstice reach it.

If you only catch one sunrise in your life make it the summer solstice sunrise at Stonehenge.

To continue our mystical journey we voyaged to Glastonbury Music Festival. Following gales the night before we were greeted by lagoons of mud. It was only Wednesday and the festival started on Friday so we had two days to watch the finishing touches being put to the festival site.

At night, everyone gathered around the festivals own stone circle where a fire had been burning since

the solstice. Musicians playing bongos, guitars, saxophones and other random instruments provided entertainment. There were flame throwers, fire jugglers and people doing fire poi.

On Thursday night 40,000 fans watched the England match but those of a more spiritual disposition opted to drink chai in the innumerable canvas cafes until the wee

hours.

Friday dawned with fresh optimism as the sun made its first appearance. Immediately rain ponchos were abandoned in favour of mini-skirts and wellies. Fridays acts included sixties survivors The Magic Band and local heroine PJ Harvey while Damien Rice played a career-defining set on the Other Stage.

Oasis headlined on Friday but because of the post-match hangover we decided to avoid what was essentially a Britpop love-in. Back at the stone circle and an Irish guy was reciting an epic poem about faeries. Fires were burning all over the hill. Someone was selling homemade special brownies, cookies, fudge and truffles. In fact, Glastonbury is a Willie Wonka's factory for those wishing to open the doors of perception. And I'm sure I saw an Oompa Loompa somewhere.

By Saturday, the rain had returned. However, there are so many things to do at Glastonbury that the rain is part of the experience. From ten-metre tall wooden scorpions to candle-powered toy boats, Glastonbury has everything. There is a children's area, a circus, a comedy tent and a theatre. A left-field market with a tent in honour of the late Clash frontman and Glastonbury regular Joe Strummer hosted debated on world debt and fascism.

There is a cinema, a huge market, a climbing wall built by Greenpeace in the shape of their flagship the Rainbow Warrior and even a ballroom where suits and gowns can be rented by those wishing to escape the mud for a little sophistication.

Paul McCartney belted out the hits at his Saturday night slot with "Live and Let Die" the hi-light as fireworks illuminated the 100-acre site at the crucial musical moments. Classics like "Get Back" had the crowd boogying despite the fact that their feet were encased in mud. Sir Paul ended with "Hey Jude" and the crowd "na-naed" until their voices croaked.

Sunday morning witnessed a first at Glastonbury. The English National Opera performed Wagner's "Ride of the Valkyrie" (best known now as the music used in Apocalypse Now). A hug-over, muddy crowd gathered to watch as the opera received a rock makeover. Gone were the blond pig tails and Viking helmets in favour of a more gothic biker look. The cast, freed of the stuffy confines of the regular performance and buoyed by the ecstatic crowd, treated us to a superb rendition. The leading lady was so inspired that she stripped to her underwear (in true festival spirit) at the end.

Christy Moore also performed at the Pyramid Stage on Sunday and a gang of crazy Irish ensured that the particular brand of Irish craic was due by all. Classics like "Missing You" were rendered all the more poignant considered the setting. Christy wound up the festival with his homage to what he joked was "the best festival in the world" - Lissdoonvarna.

Another festival first was the use of She-Pee urinals. Sick of queuing for smelly port-a-loos some while the men waltzed in and out of the make-shift urinals, some enterprising ladies invented a cardboard funnel to replace the necessary equipment. Strangely empowering is my verdict.

Monday arrived, the crowd began to leave Worthy Farm, and most of us had not seen soap in days. But that's Glastonbury.

Five Glasto Facts

Glastonbury is a carbon neutral festival - trees are planted to combat the dangerous carbon emissions from the festivals.

All coffee, tea and orange juice is Fair Trade

Profits generated go to Oxfam, Greenpeace and Water Aid.

You can have a shower at the festival. Greenpeace have solar powered showers with eco-friendly soap

Once a muddy Dance tent was literally covered in faeces as the tank sent into to suck the mud out was accidentally set to blow..

Things to do

The permanent Glasto features

Watch the sunrise at the stone circle

Catch a movie in the cinema

Party until ten in the morning at the Glade dance area

Visit the Chapel of Love and Loathing at the Lost Vagueness

Have a sauna - bring your own towel unless you feel truly instilled with Glasto spirit and go naked

Get up early and go to yoga - helps the recovery from the night before and prepares you for the night ahead

Trenchfoot remains a problem with muddy revellers - including the Chemical Brothers - developing the illness

Try the local Scrumpy cider. Warning: it is lethal

Have a massage or a spinal realignment at the Healing Field

Glasto Pics



Glastonbury, and you would have loved it



Dude, where's my tent?!



Just chillaxin'

DIT Tribes

1. The Aungier St. Bimbo

by Daniel Blackford

LET the cry go out across DIT the Bimbos are coming, the Bimbos are coming. Or Aungier Street's Militant Bimbo Wing (hereafter to be referred to as the MBW) to give them their correct title.

While the MBW's outward appearance is unlikely to strike fear in the hearts and minds of the average DIT student - be afraid be very afraid. To identify a member of the MBW look-out for the following tell tale signs - blond straightened hair (though not always); wearing a pair of hipster jeans; fake tan covering all visible skin; sporting some variation of navel exposing 'top' and absolutely caked in make-up. Often UCD-rejects they are generally in possession of some kind of glossy 'lifestyle' magazine such as the ubiquitous Cosmo.



It's a great hair day in DIT

The MBW's natural habitat is Java in Aungier Street where they can be spotted drinking latte, nibbling on some health conscious morsel from a local eatery (Fruit-tree on Camden St is currently in vogue) while at the same agonising about their addiction to their favourite chocolate treat - a craving which they usually give into. Number one topic for conversation - yes you've guessed it...Clothes, followed closely by hair, nails, and make-up. For instance did you know that GHD stands for Good Hair Day? This reporter for one was seriously disappointed to learn the relatively mundane meaning behind this famous acronym - after hearing such amazing claims as 'Ohmigod, like, GHD, like, totally changed my life!', I was expecting something truly amazing - but no, that was it. This is the kind of thing we're dealing with people, afraid yet?

Well if you're not you should be. These are the type of people who claim to be feminists, yet watch the Rose of Tralee 'for the lovely dresses'. The type of people who having spotted a guy they fancy invent fictitious names for them - 'Did you, like, see Brad (real name unknown) today?' and so on.

Members of the opposite sex constantly provide the average MBW with a multitude of options to consider. To text or not to text? What to text? How to phrase it? What words to use? How long to wait before texting back? Should you text again after not receiving an answer? Should you call? These are all daily concerns of the MBW. And that's just texting procedure.



I'm a Barbie girl, in a Barbie world

The most frightening aspect of the MBW is their pervasive influence - even though they are more than likely unaware of it. They are a silent cancer that one only discovers when it is too late - if we don't act soon, and as unlikely as it may sound, this cultural phenomenon could spread as far north as Bolton Street. But you have been forewarned - we must fight them in Kevin Street, we must fight them in Cathal Brugha Street, we must never surrender.

A porter's perspective

by Aimée Vickers

Dublin Institute of Technology has changed considerably since it first opened its doors to students in 1887. From the establishment of technical education in Ireland, it has now evolved to an Institute, which is now recognised as an international centre of excellence.

While students and academic staff have played an important role in the development of the college, it is often the loyal and dedicated men and women of the non-academic staff who ensure the smooth running of day-to-day life in DIT. Yet often the work of these very people tends to be forgotten when praise is being handed out.

This month, the DIT Independent is acknowledging the dedication of one of DIT's longer-serving members: Peter Masterson, Aungier Street's Head Porter.

Peter has devoted over twenty-

eight years to DIT. His colleague playfully describes him as a "dinosaur" while Peter modestly adds that he is "over sixty". The warmth and good-humour that goes with the banter at the Porter's desk becomes immediately apparent. Peter's career began as a General Operative and over the years he was given more responsibilities. "I gradually worked my way up to the parochial heights of Head Porter," he says.

His long career means that he has witnessed many of the major changes that have taken place over the years, especially workers' responsibilities and security aspects of the building. He says, "You now have people who are more aware of their obligations under the legisla-

tion. It is vital that the rest of the porter staff be aware of what

their duties are". Peter believes that there is an excellent relationship between the staff and students and cannot recall any occasion to make him think otherwise.

In his many years in DIT he has had some memorable experiences. On one occasion a stray cat climbed into a ceiling cavity and activated the alarm system during the night. Poor Peter was woken several times during the night and had to leave the comfort of his bed as Securicor called him to deactivate the trigger every time the cat acti-

vated the alarm. While he laughs at it now he says that he was more than a little disgruntled at the time.

Peter has been around to see some of the best student activism in DIT. He particularly recalls a demonstration in the late eighties in Rathmines College of Commerce in which students pressed for a lockup facility for their bicycles. They occupied the college by hanging their bikes from the stairwells and anywhere they could put them! "They had them all over the place, he says.

The porters make a substantial contribution to the environment of students and staff in DIT. If it were not for the outstanding work that they provide many DIT students would find themselves left out in the rain! As Peter Masterson states "We think, we believe and we try to give a good service". When asked him about what has kept him in DIT for so long and he said "I'm here for the money! That's why I'm so poor"



Peter Masterson, Head porter, Aungier St.

Islam in DIT

by Maura Fay

Mohammed Alkalbawi doesn't look like your typical DIT student. He has a three-inch-long black beard, dark skin and is wearing a knee-length black trench coat. He is in his final year studying Applied Physics, Mathematics and Science in Kevin St. He is also a Muslim.

The Irish Census of 2002 puts the population of Muslims in Ireland at 19,147 although the Imam Al-Hussein, leader of the Islamic Society of Ireland, says it is "closer to 25,000, taking into account the students who did not participate in the census and recent arrivals of refugees." The Muslim community is

on course to take the place of Presbyterianism as the Republic's third largest religious grouping.

This year Mohammed set up DIT's first ever Islamic Society. So far 20 people have joined but he estimates that there about 35 Muslim students in DIT.

Islam isn't just his religion; it's his way of life. He's forbidden from drinking alcohol and being in a place where it is served. "When we finish exams Irish students have only one thing planned- going to the pub" he laughs.

Muslims are called to prayer five times a day. "We have a place to pray in Kevin St. but it is not really suitable". The society is aiming to organise a suit-

able room to use permanently.

Muslims always pray facing Mecca, the birthplace of their most revered prophet, Muhammad. Muslim women pray kneeling behind the men.

With Ramadan approaching he is hoping to organise iftar, a community meal signifying the end of the day's fasting. During Ramadan, Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset. He also wants to get a Mullah (somebody who is a religious and social leader in Muslim community) to give a talk about Islam.

Limitations on socialising aside, Mohammed is enjoy-

ing DIT student life. Lecturers like to ask him about his religion and remember his name before they remember other student's names. His classmates are very friendly and he has not experienced any racism or prejudice.

The closest mosque to Kevin St. is at 163, South Circular Road. The first trickle of Muslims arrived in Ireland in the 1950s. Many came from South Africa to study medicine at the Royal College of Surgeons. In 1959 a group of students met and found-

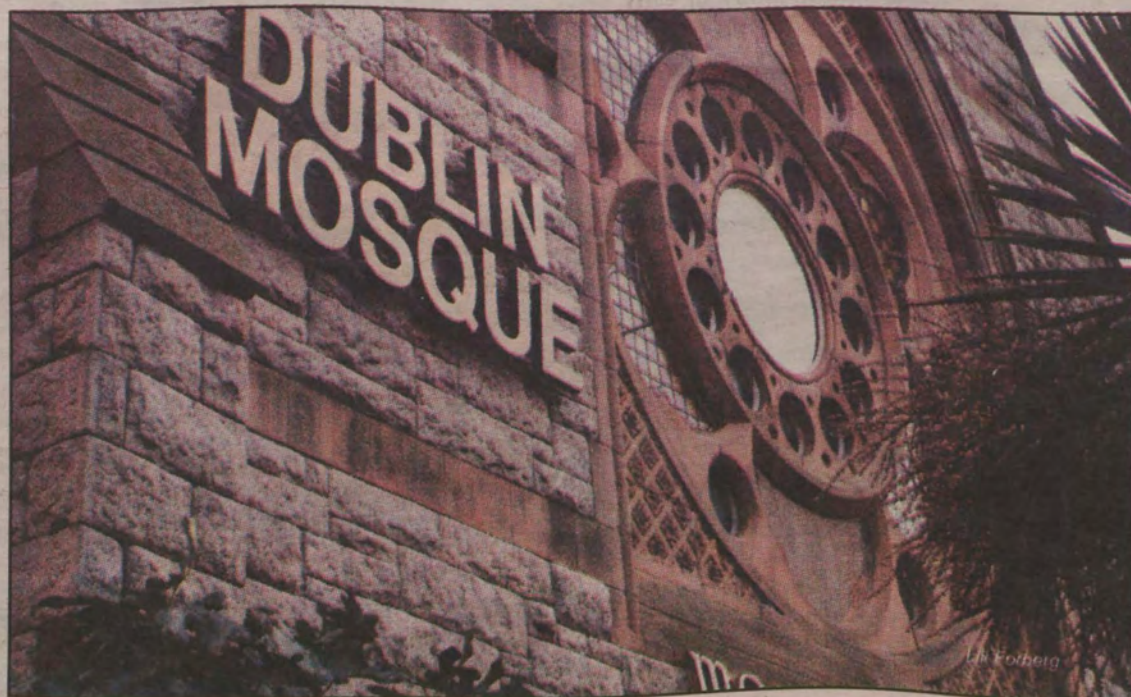
ed Dublin Islamic Society, renamed in 1990 as the Islamic Foundation of Ireland. They organised Friday prayers and acquired No. 7 Harrington St. in 1976 to use as a mosque.

In 1983, a former Presbyterian church on the South Circular Road was acquired which now holds the headquarters of the Islamic Foundation of Ireland, a Halal shop and restaurant.

Ireland's largest and only purpose built mosque is in Clonskeagh, which can hold up to 1700 people.

Clonskeagh is also home a Department of Education-funded school that was opened in 1993 by the then President, Mrs Mary Robinson. The building of the school and mosque was financed by the wealthy Al Maktoum family from the United Arab Emirates

Mohammed says the Islamic isn't just for Muslim students; it's for Irish students too. "People have the wrong idea about Muslims with all the bombings. If anyone has a question they are welcome to contact the society."



The exterior of Dublin's Mosque

DIT Clubs and Socs

Karting club high on speed

by Kate McDonald

TO get the lowdown on DIT's biggest and best sporting club, we contacted Mossy and Sinto who run the DIT Karting Club.

Those of you who were in college last year will recognise the club as being DIT's largest and most active sports club. For those of you new to college get ready for a year of high speed skills and no beer spills.

Their main aim is to bring affordable motor sport to a large number of people. We do this by running local grand prix in Santry at a discounted price of €15. These events will be run roughly every two weeks until the end of November. After this the top karters from each DIT site will go forward to the DIT championship in Galway in early December.



This is the pinnacle of the years karting within DIT as the winner will be crowned the overall DIT champion and be presented the John Hanrahan Memorial Cup for the year 2004/05.

From here drivers will be chosen to represent DIT in the Irish Times

All-Ireland Intervarsity Karting Championship which takes place during the months January to April. The Karting club also provides merchandise in the form of t-shirts and fleeces which will be available over the coming weeks.

DIT Karting club enjoy success every year on the track

On the piste

by Maeve McLaughlin

ON the 30th of September, the Ski Club held their first fundraising event of the year; the Thailand Full-Moon Beach Party.

This event took place in Club Anabel and 700 people attended. Beach-wear was the recommended dress code and, despite the cold weather, many people made the effort and bared all in their bikinis.

The party-goers enjoyed drinking cocktails from sandcastle buckets, and Teresa O'Neill, a second year Business Management student, said: "it was one of the best society-run events I've gone to since I started at DIT."

Last year, the Ski Club in DIT was run in

conjunction with the one in UCD. Paul Harvey, who established the Ski Club in DIT, explains that this was to "attract bigger numbers".

The Ski Club held the Snow Ball in Club Anabel last year. It was a very successful event, which saw Anabel's decorated with ice sculptures.

Paul hopes to organise the Snow Ball again this year, if he has the time. He explains that events like this greatly help to fund the club, as they do not receive funding from DIT for skiing trips.

He is hoping to bring 70 DIT students to Val d'Isère in the French Alps in January.



The ski club have fun on and off the slopes



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B&E are too cool for school

by Nuala Ryan

THEY queued. And they queued. And then they queued some more. Wednesday, October 6th, saw the first event on the Business and Engineering society's calendar, the annual 'Skool Disco'.

It took place in Redz on D'Olier Street and it was another success for the B&E society, despite all the queuing. Those who didn't burn their school uniforms on finishing secondary school seemed only too happy to take them out of their wardrobes for the big night.

Membership last year reached around 2000 showing the B&E society to be one of the most popular societies in Aungier Street. It added to this by winning the award for 'Best New Society' at the D.I.T Soc Awards last year.

One of the main aims of the B&E society is to unite students of business and engineering socially. Membership last year reached around 2000 showing the B&E society to be one of the most popular societies in Aungier Street. It added to this by winning the award for 'Best New Society' at the D.I.T Soc Awards last year.

Jeff Taylor, founder of the society, was delighted as it was a complete sell out. He did want to apologise, however, to all those who didn't get in and advised members to buy their tickets and arrive early for future events. And members of the society can expect many more of these in the coming months. Last year's Pyjama Party will be held again, as will a Black and White Ball later in the year.



The B&E Society goes back to skool (Photos by Lili Forberg)



Straight talking from LGBT



LGBT's successful 'Amach' publication

by Lucy Rabbite

The Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Society has operated successfully throughout DIT for the past two years. It is jointly presided over by DIT students Keith Martin and Simon Ryan. Keith, a second-year International Business and Language student, kindly spoke with the DIT Independent.

"Our aim is to create a positive space for LGBT students and to promote a positive awareness amongst the student body of DIT that it's ok to be gay. We are who we are and we can't change that."

The society is a social/support group in which Keith, Simon and the other members integrate the playful and serious sides to the society. "We go out 'on the scene' quite regularly as well as organising more casual social events like cinema trips." Keith and Simon will be instrumental in running the 'positive space' campaign, which helps involve

the whole student body in accepting all shades of sexuality.

Later in the academic year, the DIT LGBT society will participate in 'pink training', whereby 260 LGBT students from colleges and universities nationwide attend a weekend-long seminar on sexual health and gay rights, and general LGBT related workshops.

Keith admits that it is "very daunting" to walk up to the LGBT stand during sign-up week. Most of its members join either by phone, email or at one of LGBT's regular meetings. Members or potential members can text or phone the society's mobile if they wish to speak to someone regarding their sexuality. Confidentiality is guaranteed.

Despite the hard work and commitment of Keith, Simon and others, fellow DIT students are not always welcoming toward them, and Keith has been "thrown some ugly looks, by both

sexes" due to his involvement.

Despite his taxing duty, Keith remains adamant and enthusiastic over his involvement: "I took over the society this year because it's one of the best things that's ever happened to me. When I first joined I was unsure and had very low self-esteem. Now, through the support of the society, I'm much more confident and I'm very happy with my sexuality. I want to give back to the society and help other students."

So what is Keith's message to potential members? "You do not have to be 'out' to join, and you won't be pressurised to come 'out.' It's a private and confidential space. I made some of my best friends through the society, and it's definitely worth checking out!"

Email: lgb@dit.ie

Horseplay in Fairyhouse

by Laura Donnelly

THE huge queues and the mini-mosh that took place as soon as the Students Union members arrived to sell tickets were the first indication that the Freshers Furlong was going to be a fun event.

Packed buses left Mountjoy Square and Kevin Street from 7pm. And that's where the fun began. Students from different DIT's chatted, and Students Union members mingled and "supervised".

While queuing to get in we were entertained by jugglers, fire-throwers, and slightly freaky stilt walkers.

Fairyhouse Racecourse as a venue is nice...but oh-so-cold! I discovered that after I'd parted with my beloved poncho, so we went straight to the bar for something to warm us up.

The venue was an old, dark building (and did I mention cold?) but there was a great

atmosphere and it was easy to get talking to our fellow freshers, as people were more

Well done to all the contestants, it was embarrassing to say the least. It looked like

Jerry Fish and the Mudbug Club then took to the stage, and the crowd loved them.

catered for our post drunken munchies so well. The students out on the

said I would be there. I don't know who he is or where he lives, but hopefully I helped him by providing a shoulder to cry on!

Sore feet forced me to get the first bus home (damn shoe addiction) but it was definitely the best bus to be on. I got talking to two guys doing engineering in Bolton Street, who tried to persuade me to help them set up new societies. They were country boys and wanted to set up a cow tipping society. One of them was also in need of a hair cut, and wanted to set up a society where you could get your hair cut for free. Students, eh?

Overall it was a great night. As a Freshers event, it fulfilled its duties of helping us get to know each other, and everybody made new friends. The only complaint I did hear was that there was none of the one thing us students real! love...free stuff!



Freshers getting used to college life

relaxed and chatty than in the classroom. It was definitely a good icebreaker.

DJ's entertained the crowds first with a mixture of old and new stuff, before the Air Guitar Competition began.

Ah...the Air Guitar Competition, what can I say?!

fun as they played their air guitars and rocked on to music by The Darkness and The White Stripes. The bouncers looked very worried, and although they confiscated a chair from an over-enthusiastic contestant, the damage was minimal.

They entertained for two hours, with songs such as 'True Friends' and 'Upside Down' from their album 'Be Yourself'.

Outside in the stands was a popular place to be, as that was where the chip van was. The fabulous chip van that

stands were a friendly group, and one guy who sat down beside me told me the heart-breaking story of how he broke up with his girlfriend a few days beforehand. I replied with typical agony-aunt style answers. He then invited me to a party in his house and I

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DIT's gig guide

by Louisa Houghton

Slammin' at the Redbox

by Stephen Murphy

WHEN I arrived at the Redbox, at about a quarter to twelve, there was no queue whatsoever. This came as somewhat of a surprise, as did the sight of a horribly empty venue when I came through the doors.

The lasers were firing all over the place, there was the smell of dry ice in the air and the support DJ Billy Scurry was serving up some lively enough house tunes. But there were only about three people on the dance floor!

Having said that, they were really going at it and making up for the lack of people joining them. Not being one to populate such an empty dance floor just yet I went to the bar. I got a drink without any queuing and got a seat without any looking around. There was a lot of head bobbing going on amongst the people sitting down at this stage. The house Billy Scurry was mixing was fairly funky but not the type of stuff that would have you running to get your groove on.

The next time I had a look around things had changed quite a bit. There were people occupying the whole dance floor. There was still lots of room and not everybody was dancing yet but the atmosphere was definitely picking up. I had to wait a while

at the bar for a drink and someone had robbed my seat!

Slam took over the reigns without many people noticing. The two Glasgow DJs Stuart McMillan and Orde Meikle look like your average thirty-something. They were standing behind a long table stocked with turntables, laptops, mixers, drum

live show was very much a product of Slams latest album 'Year Zero', which is all about getting back to the sounds that Stuart and Orde listened to when they met up.

The album is an eclectic mix influenced by the early house days and very vocal heavy. The atmosphere in the Redbox took a

To keep in character with their album the pair teamed up with ENVOY who handled the vocal side of the show. He whipped the crowd into a frenzy with yells of encouragement while the Glasgow duo kept banging out the tunes.

With the arrival of the vocalist the music took a turn away from tech-house to a more vocal house sound, which was not the way I would have liked to see things go. Most of the crowd seemed to think otherwise, however and the mood never declined or slowed down.

ENVOY stood over the crowd, rolling the vocals out over the bass heavy beats. The fact that the lyrics were near impossible to make out unless you knew the songs off by heart was of little importance to the people with their hands in the air. This high energy level was kept up until the lights came on.

An enjoyable aspect to the night was that there was always enough room to dance and the venue never got uncomfortably hot, which is always a fear when going to see a big name play. All in all an enjoyable night even if it wasn't as techno orientated as I would have liked.



ENVOY gets the crowd moving at the Redbox

machines and all sorts of esoteric electronic music equipment.

The sounds got progressively more techno orientated and after a while the place was going crazy to some quality tech-house. The

huge leap when a grittier, more techy version of 'lie to me' pumped out of the soundsystem. The dancing got more energetic and there wasn't a person near the floor abstaining.

The Village BAR

The Village

October:

Mon 25 The Bees €14
Wed 27 Kate Rusby €21
Thu 28 Lonnie Liston Smith €21

November:

Thu 04 The Chalets
Thu 09 Suffocation €22
Fri 12 The Devlins
Sat 13 Mark Geary €17.50

Whelan's

Whelans

October:

Wed 20 Declan O'Rourke €15
Thu 21 Katell Keineg €12
Fri 22 Revile €6
Sat 23 Almes Funk Band €8
Sun 24 Doris and Fiach €10
Mon 25 The Bridies €10
Tue 26 Krisiun Behemoth, Incantation and Ragnarok €22
Wed 27 Declan O'Rourke €15
Thu 28 Jeff Martin €8
Fri 29 Life After Modelling, support from NeoSuperVital €8
Sat 30 Jape €10

November:

Mon 1 Hayseed Dixie €15
Fri 5 Iron and Wine €14.50
Mon 8 Ezio with guest Rachel Mayfield €12
Tue 9 Janis Ian €33

VICAR ST.

Vicar Street

October:

Fri 22 Kila €22.50
Sat 23 Jerry Fish and the Mudbug Club
Tue 26 Rufus Wainwright €26
Fri 29 Ross Noble €22.50

November:

Mon 1 Janis Ian €33
Sat 6 Jimmy Carr €25
Sun 7 Des Bishop €22.50
Thu+Fri 11+12 Des Bishop €22.50
Sat 13 Dave McSavage €20

The cheesy five

by Louisa Houghton

RECENTLY added to Vicar Street's line up for November is the ever-interesting, Camembert Quartet. This more than mediocre five-piece band have raised many the eyebrow in their career so far.

Clint Velour (vocals, guitar, keyboard), Bunny Green (drums, percussion, vocals), Vic Ferrari (bass, vocals), James Wand (Korg keyboard, vocals) and Doctor Sleaze (keyboard, saxophone) are said to be the greatest five-piece

quartet in the world.

It has been two years since the release of their debut album, Music Is War, and they have been gaining popularity at an alarming rate. With appearances on Joe Duffy's Liveline, Newstalk 106, 98fm and Ryan Tubridy's The Full Irish, The Camembert Quartet have helped mould their own success. Ryan Tubridy in particular took a shine to the five musicians and even persuaded them to record a Weetabix ad. for the programme.

These Irish performers became well-known by many for controversial contributions such as

Boybands Are C*nts. Their satirical lyrics and delivery have earned them huge favour. Some fans, however, have contested the changing of the title of the song to the milder Boybands Are Runts. Clint Velour responded to these complaints thus: '...you idiots, no one will ever be able to play Boybands Are C*nts without their career taking a toilet cleaning curveball'. The Quartet will put forward their latest offering The Camembert Quartet Sell Out live on November 5th in Vicar Street. Tickets are €20, and it will be worth every penny.

Who art thou Chromeo?

by Bernie Commings

Chromeo - She's in Control

"THIS is a new sound, we came to get down/ Our name is Chromeo and we are in control". Formalities out of the way; let's get down to business. Chromeo comprises best friends Dave 1 and Pee Thug, an Arab and a Jew from Montreal. If you think this is a strange amalgamation, then listen to their debut album *She's in Control*. Weird but wonderful.

Both funksters boast the likes of Michael Jackson and Prince as some of their favourite artists; their influence is evident even if it is subtle. Chromeo are in a league of their own however with their drum machines, synthesizers, saxophones, grooved-up guitar solos and their expert use of a talkbox!

The repetitive beats, uncomplicated rhyming lyrics and groovy keyboard sounds almost make them sound too cheesy to be good, but they are. Good. Need the definition of funky? Can't get to grips with groovy? Step up Chromeo.



CHROME

The subject matter of their melodic compositions is simple: love; girls; romance; anger; the stuff of classic pop songs.

These songs are addictive after a single listening, and the eighties edge adds something extra special.

Some outstanding tracks include: Me and My Man; Woman Friend, a sexy love-song with a difference; Needy Girl, their new single; You're so Gangsta, with its catchy sax solo and its infectious chorus and the finale, *She's in Control*. This album is this week's reason to party. Don't forget your dancing shoes.

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Somebody save me

by Kieran Dinneen

Stina Nordenstam - The World is Saved



Stina Nordenstam-It's her voice; enchanting, enthralling, entrancing sensual, sexy.

She wields this power over me-she teases me with her soft, low voice, soothes with her crazy, brilliant lyrics. She brings me down into the depths of despair but rescues me by the end of every song-she saves me, she saves my world.

You say you can't kill that creature inside you, you say get on with your life and I want to- I really do. But you tell me of your heartbreak in "Winter Killing", how "with a bit of ice under my clothes, my tongue against the teeth, I think of nothing, walk around the

house in the cold. I want to tell you I'm sorry, I want to leave my wife, be your lover again." You say you're safer without me. You tell me we are all falling (on falling), you take away all my hope, but you find comfort in that "even the brave are falling". In Parliament Square you suffer more heartbreak "it may be silent, but I hear bombs fall, I hear sirens, down in Whitehall".

I need you Stina, I need to tell you it's alright. You can't end it, because in your self-depressing state I find solace. "The end of a love affair" gives me hope- I can go it alone, "take your number off the phone". But I don't want to Stina, I want to be with you, I want to find you-keep you warm from the cold. Your PR person wouldn't give me your home address or your personal number. But I will track you down Stina and then you can entrance me forever.

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by Keith Reilly

Exorcist: The Beginning ***

Director: Renny Harlin

Cast: Stellan Skarsgard, Gabriel Mann, Israel Aduramo

Release Date: 29th October 2004

How in the name of God do you make a sequel to a film that has written its own infamous chapter in movie history? 1973's *The Exorcist* can justifiably claim to be one of the most influential horror films ever, transforming cinema-goers of the time into nervous wrecks. Ludicrously banned amid a public outcry, it defined the horror genre for a generation. So, a hard act to follow. Significantly, *Exorcist: The Beginning* isn't technically a sequel; it's a prequel. Set almost a quarter of a century before the events of the original, it follows ex-priest Lancaster Merrin (played by Stellan Skarsgård) as he investigates a mysterious dig in East Africa. Merrin has lost faith in the power of the church following the atrocities he witnessed in a Nazi concentration camp, but when a cursed 5th century church is unearthed his expertise is sought.

However, when Merrin arrives, the circumstances surrounding the dig are decidedly odd. Hyenas patrol nearby, while a young African boy named Joseph (who has an unmistakably English accent – fantastic casting there) is struck mysteriously ill. He is placed in the care of site doctor Sarah.



played by former Bond girl Isabella Scorupco. She provides the obligatory love interest for Merrin, now blessedly free to commit any sin of the flesh he wishes. Director Renny Harlin maintains a steady sense of momentum as

the film builds to its climax. The underlying sense of menace is ever present, and the disturbing imagery employed throughout adds to the unsettling ambience.

Inevitably, though, this film is going to be compared to its seminal predecessor, and this is where some may feel it falls down. The shocks are far more dependent on viscera than the creeping unease that permeated William Friedkin's original. Neatly, Harlin throws in a knowing nod to a couple of the infamous scenes of the original. Both the spider-walk and neck-twist are referenced, while the demon's language when it finally appears is, well, a tad offensive. Skarsgard does an admirable job of filling Max Von Sydow's boots, and in general the film is quite an enjoyable spectacle. Modern audiences probably won't be running screaming from cinemas at the sight of some spilt blood, but *Exorcist: The Beginning* deserves to be judged on its own merits rather than being compared to its illustrious forefather. On that basis, it's certainly worth a look for horror fans. Go see it. The power of Christ compels you.....

by Deirdre Reynolds

Alien Versus Predator (15PG)

Released: 22 October

Cast: Sanaa Lathan, Raoul Bova, Lance Henriksen

Directed by: Paul W.S. Anderson

Some things are good together; bubble and squeak, Richard and Judy. Then there are those whose paths were never meant to cross, Lemon & Lime KitKat: This is Your Life. Alien Versus Predator, like a hideous redneck mating with his less attractive cousin, creates a crossbreed that fits nicely into the latter category of sickening unions.

At one point in the film a pivotal character exclaims "This is all Beginning to make sense". Of course, he means the type of sense that pitches these two sci-fi legends against each other in an ancient underground pyramid in the middle of the Antarctic.

When satellite radar detects signs of activity on the site, a clichéd crew - bolshy female captain, wimpish Scotsman, OAP not fit for the voyage in the first place - assemble in search of the inexplicable structure and certain death. In fact, even before we are reintroduced to our old monstrous buddies, the jittery cast around them seem to be expecting them to pop

from any given crevice. Suspense is slapped on with such a heavy hand that when the camera finally claps sight of the creatures, it is about as frightening as two small puppies licking your ear.



The original films, pioneers in their respective day, orbited large-

On winning special effects but now, over twenty years later, *Alien* resembles a snotty mechanical

leper while Predator looks strangely like Lenny Kravitz on steroids. And if you've seen one chest-bursting scene, you've seen them all.

The storyline, if that's not an immoral use of the word, goes that extra-terrestrial hunters came to earth thousands of years ago to teach civilisation. Humans treated them as Gods and they, in turn, used humans to breed aliens for hunting. Then they buggered off only to return every hundred years for a spot of hunting and sacrificial worship. Call me picky, but their former status as God-like hunters does tend to give Predator the upper-hand in any apocalyptic smack-down. But Alien fans, fear not because a dense ending ensures round two will commence in another hundred years. Hopefully I'll be dead by then.

Fahrenheit 9/11 (15)

Release Date: 18-Oct-2004

In this, the most successful documentary of all time, George Bush hater extraordinaire Michael Moore does what has now become like taking candy off a baby- make Bush look like an idiot. Although hugely entertaining, this is a direct polemic rather than a balanced examination of the facts surrounding the reaction to 9/11 and the subsequent war on terrorism. Despite the bias, this is an absolutemust-see for anyone.



Mean Girls (12)

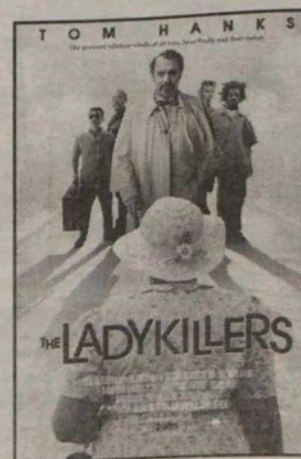
Release Date: 18-Oct-2004

This classy caper by Mark Waters features nerdy misfit Cady Heron, who has to learn fast in the cutthroat world of American high school after her scientific upbringing.

Befriended by two kind outsiders, Cady is forced to choose between her real friends and the blond 'plastic' trio who try to initiate her into their coven. Her real friends convince her to stay with the plastics to glean gossip, but things are complicated by a saucy love interest!



by Arthur Sullivan



The Ladykillers (15)

Release Date: 20-Oct-2004

The Coen brothers have produced a stylish remake of the 1955 British comedy with Peter Sellers. Tom Hanks stars as the conniving criminal who rents a room from a dear old lady and uses it for his cunning endeavours. Worth seeing simply for the bizarre character that Hanks plays.

There's nothing mediocre about DIT's gaelic footballers

by Seosamh O Gallunaigh

Higher Education
Intermediate Championship
Round 1
DIT 2-07
UUJ 1-07

DIT'S Intermediate Footballers had a magnificent victory over a star-studded Jordanstown outfit in blustery Jordanstown on October 14th.

With only ten of their regular outfit playing, but ably assisted by 5 freshers, DIT ground out a most unlikely win with a classic combination of graft, teamwork and luck.

Barry Lyndsey was inspired in goals, while Daniel Cunningham and Kieran McBriarty mopped up wave upon wave of attack in the full-back line. Willy

Dwyer, Willy Donnelly and Cathal Keegan burst through the midfield time after time, taking the game to the Ulster side at every opportunity.

But it was the midfield pairing of Kieran Garvey and John Donegan who laid the foundations for this famous victory. Donegan was particularly brilliant, contributing 6 of the team's 7 points. His accomplished display of high fielding and precise free taking deservedly earned him the Man of the Match award.

David Reynolds scored a majestic goal during the first half after being put through by Paul Kehoe, and he later added a point from play.

In the end, though it took Kehoe's goal, scored ten minutes from time, to secure DIT's win.

Hurlers out to fulfil potential

by Arthur Sullivan

With 23,000 students, DIT is a college with huge potential in the GAA. Yet for some reason, national success has more often than not evaded the college. This is no more evident in any sport than hurling.

The current senior manager of the hurlers, former Offaly ace Aidan O'Halloran, puts this down to the sporting facilities previously offered by the college. "It's terrible being dependent on other colleges. It's so hard getting lads to train when they have to trek to different places every evening. Without a base, winning becomes much harder"

However, things are now looking up. The forthcoming move by DIT to one campus at Grangegorman is already benefiting the hurlers, who now have a solid base in

which to train. It could prove to be the spark that ignites DIT hurling.

DIT face DCU away on October 21st in their Division 2 league opener and are expected to repeat last year's result and defeat the northsiders. In the group they will also face NUI Maynooth and a strong St. Pats side. Anything less than victory in the league would be disappointing for the DIT boys.

The Kehoe cup also provides an opportunity for DIT's hurlers to win some silverware. Last year was DIT's first appearance in the inter-county competition and they performed brilliantly, losing narrowly to eventual champions Meath at the semi-final stage.

The general consensus is that they can win the competition this year with the level of talent in the side.

Soccer team looking to build on success

by Ronan O'Connor

THE men's soccer team are looking forward to the new season with great anticipation, hoping to build upon the successful work done last term.

DIT beat UCD on penalties to win the Collingwood Cup (the annual intervarsity competition) Plate last season. The College will again be hoping to bring back some silverware from this year's tournament, which will be hosted by University Limerick in March.

Last year two DIT players represented the college on the CFAI National team's tour of Cyprus. Óige Kennedy and Shane Brennan both played important roles in a hugely successful trip that resulted

in two wins and a draw from the three games played.

DIT also has two teams entered in the Irish Colleges league. The 'A' team will compete in Division 1 South, and were due to play their first match against the Garda College on 20th October. They will also face Limerick IT, Waterford IT, Tipperary Institute and IT, Carlow in their quest to top the table.

The DIT 'B' team will play for the Division 2 Dublin North Central title. They kick off their campaign against the National College of Ireland on October 20th. IT Blanchardstown B, IT Dundalk B and Mater Dei Institute will also oppose DIT 'B'.

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DIT welcomes Hockey International

by Isobel Joyce

DIT'S John Jermyn was only nineteen when he first played for the full Irish hockey team. The twenty two year old already has nineteen caps and has scored four goals for the Irish team. Now, he is starting a diploma course in Legal Studies in Aungier Street with a view to becoming a solicitor.

This year will not be Jermyn's first experience of college life; he has already completed an arts degree in economics and geography in UCC. He is hoping to receive a sports scholarship this year, and will greatly strengthen Aungier Street's mixed hockey team.

A Cork native, he went to the successful and well known hockey school of Ashton. Many other Irish internationals, both underage and men's, have come from this school.

Jermyn started out in hockey when he was five, playing in Garryduff where Cork Church of Ireland play. Since then he has made the move to Pembroke Wanderers, now that he is living and studying in Dublin.

Any Munster hockey player will know how seriously the matches between Church of Ireland and Cork Harlequins are played. The four clashes between these two teams determine who wins the Munster league every season. John enjoys playing in Leinster for a change. "The Leinster

League is much more competitive week to week. I won't miss playing 'quins too much - you get sick of playing the same people all the time. You

be tough because it means travelling down after a game on a Saturday afternoon, training Sunday morning and travelling back up after."



John Jermyn

It seems though that not all his loyalties lie with Cork and Munster. One of his goals this year is to beat CIT.

John's first taste of international hockey was at under sixteen level. Three years later, he broke onto the full international men's side. His first experience was a friendly against Belgium, but his first competitive cap was in the European B

division that same year. "I was proud when I played against Belgium, but it was just a friendly. It was a class feeling though playing the tour-

nament in Barcelona."

One of Jermyn's goals is to win an Irish Senior Cup medal. Victory in this competition has to date escaped him - Church of Ireland having been knocked out at the semi final stage the last few years.

Having taken last summer off hockey, John hopes to make his way back onto the Irish team for next year's European B division tournament. If Ireland do well in the tournament, they will hope to make it to the Olympic Qualifiers.

His last, smallest, and probably most difficult goal to attain is to beat CIT with DIT. Hopefully the Corkman can help break CIT's strangle-hold on colleges mixed hockey. In beating CIT, Jermyn will be defeating a lot of his rivals from Cork Harlequins.

He will also be playing for the Irish Colleges team this year, and will no doubt bring a lot to that team as well helping the boys defeat the Irish Universities team.

The player he most looks up to might provide some guidance to Jermyn while he is trying to achieve these goals - "Gavin Burke, I look up to him most just because of his fierceness and will to win".

Let's hope that John Jermyn also has this will to win, and will help Aungier Street to victory this year.

The 'other' handball is bouncing back

by Eoghan Morrissey

DIT'S Irish handballers have become one of the world's most fearsome collegiate teams. But the college is also home to Team Handball (also known as Olympic Handball).

Team Handball consists of two teams of seven players and is played on a 40-metre long, 20 metre wide court, with a ball slightly larger than a grapefruit. Players can take only three steps with the ball in hand before releasing, although they can bounce the ball whilst travelling.

It is a fast-paced, physical, sweaty game similar to five-a-side football or basketball. Although officially a semi-contact game it can feature heavy tackles and forceful blocking. Goals must be scored from outside a large arc past an acrobatic goalkeeper, but it is a high-scoring game.

The game is widely played in Europe but is still making inroads into the English speaking world. Former Manchester United and Danish international, Peter Schmeichel, played the sport as a youth and credits it for his

acrobatic, dominant goalkeeping style.

DIT Team Handball Coach Colin Brosnan developed a grá for the sport in his first year in college. "After Christmas, I moved accommodation and one of my new flatmates was the President of the

"It's fun quick and interesting to watch. If you play it once you're hooked."

Association. He dragged me along to a game and I became very interested." He founded the club in 1999, at a time when there were only three senior clubs in Ireland.

The club has gone from strength to strength, Brosnan says. "This year we have 35 to 40 members but not everyone has registered yet. It's the best year yet for turning out for training."

DIT will be fielding two men's and one women's team this year in the National

League, which features a Plate and Shield Competition.

At present there is no Irish Inter-Varsity Championship but DIT did organise and host a tournament a number of years ago. But as Brosnan admits: "Six out of the ten National League teams are colleges so it's pretty much a college league as it is." They would, however, like to compete in the British Inter-Varsity - funding and player availability permitting.

In addition to students, the club membership also features graduates and non-students. A number of the players are Erasmus students, which can create problems after Christmas when they return home. It also means the teams can vary from year to year. The membership includes players from France, Germany, Spain, Croatia and Latvia.

So what would Brosnan say to anybody interested in the game? "It's never too late to take it up. It's a great game. It's fun quick and interesting to watch. If you play it once you're hooked."

The DIT Team Handball Club can be contacted by calling 087 2960160 or by e-mailing colinbrosnan@hotmail.com



Lili Forberg

The olympic handballers in action

Karate star wins World Silver

Karol McDonald has just returned from the WKO World Karate Championships in Italy where on September 25th, he won a silver medal in the -75kg section. This added to the bronze medal he won at the 2002 Championships in Birmingham. He told Mark Rodden how he became a world silver medallist.

THE 3rd year PHD student won his medal in point karate, which is a quick, less physical version of traditional karate, with bouts lasting three minutes. Points are scored when kicks and punches are thrown with good technique. First to six points wins, and if either fighter opens up a four point gap he wins.

The rules make for attacking contests, as McDonald explains: "In point karate it's very up-tempo and you have to be attack minded to get the scores, whereas in traditional karate it's very slow and more about waiting and who cracks first."

At the World Championships, McDonald came through a gruelling day of fights to reach the final against his fellow clubman, Tommy Elberse.

He remembers it as a tense fight: "It was very close for the first two and a half minutes but in the last thirty seconds he took control. The nerves kinda got to me a bit and he dealt with them better."

"After two and a half minutes it was 2-2 and I was getting more and more tense as the fight was going on because I knew the time was running out and I had to get the point in."

"I went crazy trying to get a score back and of course he just

picked me off, and then straight-away it was 6-2 in twenty seconds and that was the fight over and done with."

However the Sligo man's fighting wasn't finished. Later that day he took part in the team event, where the Irish team lost to England and pipped Italy's A team to the bronze.

McDonald's Sligo Green Dragon club also had a successful tournament. "Out of the senior team I think there was only one lad who didn't win any kind of medal. But he had two cracked ribs from

a kickboxing tournament two weeks previous, and nobody knew until he came home and got the x-ray!"

Sligo might not be most people's idea of a traditional stronghold for karate but McDonald was lucky to meet an enthusiastic instructor who combined the best elements of kung fu, kickboxing and wada ryu to form his own point karate style.

McDonald has been hooked ever since starting. "I'm 24 years old so I've been doing it twelve years. I

lived close to my instructor and was best friends with one of his sons and he encouraged me to come along. I went along to watch a tourna-

ment up in Dublin and just got the bug straight away. The following weekend I started and I haven't

looked back since."

The mathematics student is currently a third Dan black belt. But the move to 4th Dan is quite a commitment: "To become a 4th Dan you either have to be a multiple world champion or, the way I'm going to do it, I'm going

to set up a club and start teaching. I'll be graded on my own ability and what I can do, and also how good my students are in their development. That way when we're training we're not only focused on ourselves we're focused on the kids that are coming through."

The Kevin Street student is thankful for the support that allowed him to go to the world championships. He credits his PHD supervisor Dr.Garavaglia for allowing him time off and being so patient with him on his return, and also cites his fiancé, Bevan Power-Mooney - "my motivator and dietician!" - as a crucial influence in his success.

McDonald was the only full-time student that made it to the championships thanks to the support he received from DIT. "I get the scholarship grant from DIT for the

PHD - that covers me for rent and food - but I wouldn't be able to afford to do all the training and the travelling if it wasn't for the sports scholarship on top of that, so I'm very lucky to have that."

The Sligo man was also successful at the last major international tournament he was at before the World Championships, held in July of last year near Frankfurt.

He took silver in the -70 kg weight division and gold in the -75kg, which meant that he qualified for the Grand Champion section, where he won silver: "That's where all the title holders of each section came together and fought off - I was pretty well bruised after coming home from that tournament!"

As for the future, McDonald hopes to perform well at the next World Championships. "My aim is to win the world title there but beyond that get more into the teaching aspect and build up clubs. I plan when I get the PHD to emigrate and wherever I go I plan to set up a club and spread the style that my instructors taught me."

"So in years to come when I finish myself I hope to have taught world champions."



Karol McDonald representing Ireland (right)

Freshers' Football

By Fiachra Ó Muiré

Freshers' Football Championship Round 1
14/10/2004

First Team Match:

UUJ 1-18

DIT 0-06

DIT'S Freshers' teams suffered heavy defeats at the hands of Jordanstown in Belfast on October 14th.

Encouraging for DIT was the fact that they had forty players to choose from and the first team contained many accomplished footballers.

In the main game of the day involving the first teams of DIT and Jordanstown, DIT were evenly matched with Jordanstown in the opening third.

The teams were level at 3 apiece for a long time, with both teams hitting the crossbar during that period. Jordanstown pulled away at the end of the half, however, with a goal and a string of unanswered points.

DIT started the second half as strongly as

they started the first with Michael Hallows scoring 2 points from frees. However, as the Ulster team began to break down DIT attacks as the half wore on, they began to significantly outscore DIT.

Although the final score was disheartening, DIT can be encouraged by the promising performances of some of the team, including Emmett Bolton, Michael Hallows and Richie Walsh who put in impressive displays. Bolton was awarded Man of the Match and named as Captain for the upcoming match with UCD.

In the second team game, DIT were defeated in a high scoring encounter.

DIT First Team: Micheal Byrne; Sean Donnellan, John Daly, Ciarán Carey; Donal Leddy, Shay Hannon, Emmett Bolton; Colm Daly, Eoin Brennan; Jamie Fitzpatrick, Michael Hallows (0-4, 3 frees and a side-line), Greg Quinn; Niall Geraghty, Richie Walsh, David Crombie. Sub: Ronan O Shea for Geraghty (30)



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DIT Independent Sport

DIT SPORT 2004/2005

DIT Sports Activities Programme 2004/05
At this stage all of the sports clubs are active again with plenty of activities organised for the coming sporting year. For a detailed sports activities timetable and a map of the sports facilities used please visit the DIT sports website at the address below and download your copy today!

www.dit.ie/DIT/sport/clubs/SportsTimetable-0405.pdf

DIT/Goodbody's Scoreforecast Competition 2004

(Free entry for all DIT students and staff)
Internet Sports Forecasting Competition that allows you to test your sporting knowledge by predicting the outcome of over 15 DIT Competitive Sports Fixtures and other National Sporting Fixtures.

Points Awarded for the highest weekly scores and the top scores at the end of the Competition. The competition will run for six consecutive weeks and you

To register to play visit the DIT sports website at www.dit.ie/DIT/sport/ and click on the scoreforecast icon.

First fixtures will be posted on the website Tuesday 19th October 2004. You will have till 5pm, Friday 22nd October to register, play and make your predictions.

New Fitness Area in DIT Kevin Street

A new fitness area equipped with the latest high-tec cardiovascular and strength equipment will open in DIT Kevin Street College in early November. The new fitness facility will be open Monday to Friday from 9am to 9pm and on Saturday morning from 9am to 1pm.

Keep an eye out for the various pre-paid membership packages which will be posted up on the sports website over the coming weeks. The student and staff gym membership packages will be available shortly for purchase from any of the DIT Sports Unit Personnel located on your college campus.

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Ladies soccer team expects successful season

by Nuala Ryan

AS the DIT Ladies Soccer team enter their fourth season, coach Stephen Dempsey feels he has every reason to be confident.

Since they were formed in 2001, the team has experienced success after success. In their first season, the girls won the Leinster Regional League and they followed this up in 2003 by winning the Subsidiary Girls Cup. Last season they lost the league by just one point.

Looking ahead to this year, Dempsey is optimistic about his side's chances. "We have a good team", he says. "There is a lot of interest out there. So far 24 girls have registered and my phone is still ringing!"

The coach believes that the talent is there too. "I have seen the new girls in training and I'm very impressed." The new players include two Irish international players, Sandra Mulhall, who played at Under 19 level, and Michelle Dunne, who played for the Under-17's.

The club also benefits from excellent facilities. The girls train one night a week at

Larkin College and their home ground is at Grangegorman. There is never any trouble with the girl's kit, and there is always a bus available to bring them to matches.

Dempsey is disappointed, however, with the lack of respect the club gets. Despite all

But Dempsey is remaining positive about this year. "When we won the League we had a chance to go forward to the play-offs to win a place in the Premier Division. We have played these big teams before - the likes of UCD and Trinity - and we have put

it up to them, but they have always beaten us. I didn't want the girls to go through that, going out every match and being beaten. It would have been too demoralising."

However, he is confident that the team will perform well this season. "We will be strong", he says. "Some of our girls are only in first year. This could be the year we go up to the Premier Division."

Life in the

Premier would provide a tough test for the Ladies soccer team. They would be battling with the best teams from the major colleges, but they have a coach who believes that they can do it, and they are a team who are used to success. This could be their year.



DIT Ladies Soccer Team

the success the team have had, he feels the girls don't get the recognition they deserve.

"It's men's soccer this, men's GAA that," Dempsey says. "Sometimes the results of the girl's matches aren't even given. A line or two here and there, that's all."

Gotta hand it to them



DIT Handballing A Team

THE D.I.T. Handball Club, current world collegiate champions, added another title to their impressive haul when taking the 60x30 Intervarsities A Team title in Kells last weekend.

The four man team of Cormac Smyth, Paul Fitzpatrick, Mark McGowan and Brian Carroll defeated reigning champions Sligo IT in a one-sided final, while the B



Pádraig O'Brien and Paul Fitzpatrick

Team was unluckily pipped by U.C.D. in their decider. For good measure, exciting fresher Brian Carroll took the Open Singles title with a close win over team mate Smyth. Newcomer

Pádraig O'Brien took the C Singles, defeating Cork opposition. All eyes now turn to the 40x20 season which kicks off in UCD in late November.